

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8139

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, CSCE, UR
SUBJ: ORLOV AND GINZBURG CASES

1. THE WIFE OF A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT IN MOSCOW, A CLOSE, PERSONAL FRIEND OF BOTH THE ORLOVS AND GINZBURGS, GAVE US A REPORT ON THE TWO FAMILIES. SHE SAW MRS. ORLOV AND MRS. GINZBURG JUNE 7. BOTH WOMEN ARE DEPRESSED, FEEL CUT OFF FROM THEIR WESTERN FRIENDS AND EVEN SOMEWHAT FROM THE DISSIDENT COMMUNITY. NOT SURPRISINGLY, THEY REPORTEDLY FEEL THAT NOTHING IS BEING DONE TO HELP THEIR HUSBANDS GET OUT OF JAIL AND LEAVE THE COUNTRY. NEITHER WOMAN HAS RECEIVED ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CHARGES WHICH HER HUSBAND MAY FACE.

2. BOTH WOMEN ARE AWARE THAT THE WESTERN LAWYERS (WILLIAMS AND MACDONALD) WHO HAD AGREED TO HELP THEIR HUSBANDS HAD BEEN REFUSED SOVIET VISAS. AN UNNAMED FRENCH LAWYER, HIRED BY SOLZHENITSYN TO DEFEND GINZBURG, HAD ALSO BEEN REFUSED A VISA. LIKE THE OTHER TWO ATTORNEYS, THE FRENCHMAN INTENDS TO GO TO BELGRADE;
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UNLIKE THE OTHER TWO HE IS A RESPECTED MEMBER OF THE FRENCH CP, AND MRS. GINZBURG FEELS THAT A COMMUNIST LAWYER WILL HAVE MUCH MORE IMPACT AT BELGRADE THAN THE OTHERS WILL.

3. MRS. GINZBURG SAYS THAT SHE STILL HAS SOME HOPE FOR THE EXPULSION OF HER HUSBAND, PERHAPS IN CONNECTION

WITH A MASSIVE WESTERN CAMPAIGN. SHE NOTES THAT SHE WAS ABLE TO PRESERVE FROM THE KGB A SERIES OF DOCTOR'S CERTIFICATES, ATTESTING TO THE FACT THAT GINZBURG IS IN NO FIT STATE TO REMAIN IN PRISON. THESE CERTIFICATES DETAIL GINZBURG'S TB, ULCERS, RECENT BOUT OF PNEUMONIA, ETC. REPORTEDLY COPIES OF THESE CERTIFICATES ARE IN THE HANDS OF THE WESTERN LAWYERS.

4. MRS. GINZBURG'S NEXT SCHEDULED VISIT TO KALUGA PRISON, WHERE HER HUSBAND IS STILL INCARCERATED, WILL BE ON JULY 6. SHE IS REPORTEDLY NOW ABLE TO SEND HER HUSBAND FOOD BROUGHT FROM MOSCOW, RATHER THAN BEING LIMITED TO PRODUCTS AVAILABLE IN KALUGA, AS WAS EARLIER THE CASE.
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